

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, BR

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON BRAZIL

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, ARA HELD TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON BRAZIL JAN. 19-20 AS EXPERIMENTAL INNOVATION EXPANDING DOMESTIC FORUM PROGRAM. WE CONSIDER SEMINAR TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESS IN IMPROVING OUR COMMUNICATION WITH DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS IN U.S. SIMILAR SEMINARS PLANNED ON OTHER COUNTRIES AND ISSUES.

2. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT SEMINAR HAS AROUSED CURIOSITY AND PERHAPS SUSPICION IN BRAZIL, APPARENTLY DUE IN LARGE PART TO COINCIDENTAL APPEARANCE OF ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS IN U.S. PRESS REGARDING POSSIBLE OVER-EXTENSION OF LOANS BY VARIOUS LARGE U.S. BANKS TO LDC'S INCLUDING BRAZIL. JORNAL DO BRASIL OF JAN. 22 REPORTEDLY DESCRIBES SEMINAR AS QUOTE SECRET UNQUOTE WITH EMPHASIS ON MULTINATIONAL BUSINESS REPRESENTATION. IN CURRENT SENSITIVE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN BRAZIL, IMPLICATION IS THAT MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS AND REEVALUATE U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES TOWARD BRAZIL. VEJA AND ESTADO DE SAO PAULO ALSO SHOWING INTEREST.

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3. KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS SHOULD DISPEL SUCH SPECULATION.

THERE WERE SIXTEEN INVITEES INCLUDING TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY (XEROX/ANDERSON-CLAYTON); TWO FROM PRESS (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR/WASHINGTON POST); FOUR OR FIVE ACADEMICS; TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCH GROUPS. FIVE INVITEES DID NOT SHOW (THREE STAFFERS FROM HILL BECAUSE OF RECONVENING OF CONGRESS; REPRESENTATIVE OF CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY; AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE). ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON BRAZIL. VARIOUS OFFICERS OF ARA AND OTHER INTERESTED BUREAUS AND AGENCIES EITHER TOOK PART IN PRESENTATIONS, ACTED AS MODERATORS OR PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS.

4. AGENDA INCLUDED PRESENTATION OF OVERVIEW ON U.S.

POLICY TOWARD BRAZIL AND QUOTE WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE UNQUOTE IN U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS. DISCUSSION SESSIONS ALSO HELD ON INTERNAL BRAZILIAN POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE PLUS ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS. BRAZILIAN CHARGE CELSO DINIZ WAS INVITED TO LUNCHEON ON JAN. 19 AND MADE PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. HE WAS SHOWN COPY OF AGENDA AND GUEST LIST.

5. TO PRESERVE AIR OF CONFIDENCE AND SERIOUSNESS, MEETING WAS NOT OPEN IN SENSE THAT ANYONE COULD WALK IN AND LISTEN. FOR EXAMPLE, SERGIO MELO OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND U.S. JOURNALIST ASKED TO ATTEND BUT WERE TURNED DOWN. PLANS FOR SEMINAR WERE NOT HIDDEN. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR ANY OF PARTICIPANTS. ONLY RESTRICTION WAS UNDERSTANDING THAT ENTIRE SEMINAR WAS OFF THE RECORD, I.E. NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

6. IN DISCUSSION TODAY WITH VEJA CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD ALREADY PROCURED COPY OF INVITEE LIST, DIVERSE AND INFORMAL NATURE OF SEMINAR WAS EMPHASIZED, TOGETHER WITH FACT IT WAS IN NO POSSIBLE SENSE A POLICY SESSION; OUR AIM WAS SIMPLY TO STIMULATE BETTER INTERACTION WITH PRIVATE GROUPS INTERESTED IN BRAZIL.

7. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEMINAR ON WIRELESS FILE JAN. 23  
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